

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-15 under U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Battat, et al (US 5,958,012). Battat teaches a network management system whereby a virtual reality approach is used to provide a view of a subset of the network.

In the independent extant claims, 1, 9, and 14, explicit reference is made to an adjacency matrix. In the present invention, adjacency matrix has a specific meaning and is explained on page 18 as being generated by matrix algebra. The matrix thus generated may have logical or physical adjacency.

By contrast, the term “adjacency matrix” does not appear in Battat. The Examiner has cited Fig. 17 in Battat as representing an adjacency matrix. However, Applicants respectfully point out that Fig. 17 illustrates an apparent three dimensional physical image of a group of devices. The Examiner also cites Battat at col. 17, line 17 and col. 18 lines 36 and 51 as relevant to an adjacency matrix. Again, Applicants respectfully disagree with the Examiner’s characterization of Battat as disclosing an adjacency matrix. One skilled in the art would not have been able to use the teachings of Battat to arrive at the present invention.

Claims 2-8 are dependent on Claim 1 and are believed to in condition of allowance in the original form.

Claims 10-13 are dependent on Claim 9 and are believed to be condition of allowance in the original form.

Claim 15 is dependent on Claim 14 and is believed to be in condition of allowance in the original form.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and reasons, Applicants believe that Claims 1-15 are in condition of allowance and respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider the rejections and pass the claims to allowance. Examiner is invited to call Applicants' undersigned representative if a telephone conference will expedite the prosecution of this application.

Respectfully submitted,

Gopisetty, et al.

/Lewis Nunnelley/
Agent for Applicants
Lewis Nunnelley, Reg. No. 42,942
541 929-4478

IBM Almaden Research Center
IP Law Department
C4TA/J2B
650 Harry Road
San Jose, CA 95120-6099